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AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY.—*Devoted to Popular Instruction and Literature.* June, 1867. J. W. Schermerhorn & Co., New York. \$1,50 per annum.

This lively and independent monthly does good service in the cause of education. Every number contains an article on Natural History, besides a special department containing gleanings in Science and the Arts. The present number contains valuable hints on the importance of the study of Natural History in Schools.

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## NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANY.

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### BOTANY.

ROTTENNESS OF FRUITS.—The experiments of M. Devaine, recorded in the "Comptes Rendus," Aug. 20, 1866, prove that the rottenness of fruits is the result of the attacks of fungi, the different varieties in the form of the decay being produced by generic differences in the attacking fungi by the spores of which the fruit has been inoculated. Thus the rottenness determined by a *Mucor* or a *Penicillium* differs in density and color as well as in rapidity of development, and all the other Mucedineæ produce a rottenness so characteristic, that the name of the fungus which produced the mischief may be at once determined; for example, a *Helminthosporium* which attacks the carrot, produces a black putridity; a *Selenosporium*? Corda, which M. Devaine observed upon the cucumber, and which he propagated on this fruit, gives a beautiful red color to the flesh of the cucumber, whilst the rottenness of the same fruit, resulting from the invasion of a *Mucor* or a *Penicillium*, has no particular coloration. — *Quarterly Journal of Science.*

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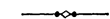
### ZOOLOGY.

THE RED-LEGGED GRASSHOPPER.—This terrible pest has been for several years immensely destructive in the far West, especially in Kansas, as we learn from a correspondent, who states that it "covered the country last August and September, destroying all the late crops, fall wheat, etc., and deposited its eggs all over the country. Now the farmers are in a quandary, and some are in despair, not sowing or planting, believing that it would be labor spent in vain, while others run the risk." It used to swarm at certain times in the Eastern States. Harris enumerates its visitations in New England in the last century, when it devoured every green thing, so that "days of

fasting and prayer were appointed" on account of the threatened calamity.

How shall the ravages of this well-known grasshopper be stayed? We doubt not that when the West is more thickly settled, and the eggs and young of the grasshopper exposed to the attacks of domestic animals, it will be less abundant.

The habits of this species are not well known, except that they appear in mid-summer in the winged state. The wingless larvæ appear in June, and, as Harris recommends, hay crops should be mown early, before they fly in swarms. The last of summer they couple, and probably lay their eggs in holes in the earth, which are hatched in the spring; at least such are the habits of the common Carolina Locust. As Harris suggests, this insect can only be kept under by concerted action on the part of farmers. "In the south of France the people make a business, at certain seasons of the year (probably in the autumn and late in the spring), of collecting locusts and their eggs, the latter being turned out of the ground in little masses, cemented and covered with a sort of gum, in which they are enveloped by the insects." Various forms of drag-nets can be invented for collecting them in large numbers, and run, if necessary, through a field by horse-power. The inventive genius of our farmers will easily suggest methods of gathering these insects by the bushel, when they can be thrown into hot water, and fed to swine. An entomological friend has found by his own experience, that roasted grasshoppers are excellent eating,—"better than frogs." Only let some enterprising genius of the kitchen once set the example of offering to his customers roasted grasshoppers, rare done, and fricasseed canker-worms,—for we have it on the word of an entomologist that caterpillars are pleasing to the palate of man,—and these droves of entomological bees will supplant their vertebrate rivals at the shambles, and instead of cattle-fairs, we shall have Grasshopper Festivals, and County Caterpillar Shows.



#### GEOLOGY.

THE TWO EARLIEST KNOWN RACES OF MEN IN EUROPE.—Recent discoveries in archæology, now generally accepted among scientific men, tend to show that man has lived many ages before History gives a hint, either by tradition or written record, of his existence. There are races of fossil men, which have peopled certain areas, and then passed away, their places to be filled by new and strange peoples. Thus the study of prehistoric man belongs with the study of fossil animals and plants, or Palæontology. The life of man upon the earth can only be measured *relatively* in the geological scale, not by recorded